

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-34, 36, 37, 40-42, 44, 45, 48-60 and 62-70 are pending in the Application.

Claims 48-52 stand allowed.

Claims 1-21, 23-31, 53-60 and 62-70 stand rejected.

Claims 32-34, 36-37, 40-42 and 44-45 have been objected to.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claim 29 asserting that "the" should be inserted prior to "call," for proper antecedence. In response, Applicants have amended claim 29 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 32 and 40 have been objected to, where the Examiner has asserted that "/" should be changed to "and" in that the "/" by definition is to be taken as an "or." In response, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 40 as suggested by the Examiner.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21, 23-31, 53-60 and 62-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

First, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 69 should not be rejected, since it depends upon claim 48, which has been determined to be allowable.

The Examiner has asserted that the phrase "adaptable for" in some of the independent claims is indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove this phrase. This Amendment has been done solely to address the § 112 rejection, and was not performed in any way to overcome a prior art rejection.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner has asserted that it is not clear as to what a "single set of software" implies or how this differs from any other software. In response, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to portions of the Background Information in the Specification. Therein it is discussed that the prior art has a problem in that separate telephone and voice mail systems must be purchased and interconnected to operate correctly and efficiently with prior art systems. Page 2, lines 4-10. FIGURES 2 and 13 further illustrate this problem and are discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the Specification. Another prior art system uses a personal computer with a voice adapter card inserted therein for interconnecting to a telephone system. Again, with such a system there is a separate voice mail system coupled to a telephone system where separate software is needed to operate the voice mail portion. Page 3, lines 17-21. Thus, the prior art has required that separate hardware be utilized for the voice processing and call processing portions of the system, which naturally requires separate sets of software to operate the separate hardware portions. Since the present invention makes use of a single microprocessor to control both the voice processing and telephone processing functions, only a single set of software is needed, thus the reason for the claim limitation.

With respect to claim 13, the Examiner has asserted that it is not clear as to whether the claim limitation "recording a call" intends to refer to the audio portion of the call or to all of the signals including DTMF signals, ring signals, and the like. Though the Specification describes the operation of the recording function as being implemented primarily for recording the audio portion of the call (*See* Fig. 4), should the calling party enter DTMF tones or any other signal, such signals will naturally be recorded by the recording buffer. Nevertheless, it is after the incoming call has been answered and connected to the system that the recording buffer is typically coupled to the call.

III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such Claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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